



WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

Project ID: 2005ID51B

Title: A Reconnaissance Study of Arsenic Distribution in the Shallow Aquifer of the Treasure Valley

Project Type: Research

Focus Categories: Water Quality, Toxic Substances, Hydrogeochemistry

Keywords: arsenic, groundwater, contamination, Idaho

Start Date: 03/01/2005

End Date: 02/28/2006

Federal Funds: \$11,750

Non-Federal Matching Funds: \$46,069

Congressional District: 1

Principal Investigator:
Shawn Benner

Abstract

Perhaps the greatest emerging threat to water quality in Idaho is naturally occurring elevated arsenic in our groundwater based drinking water supplies. In the most populated region of the state, the Treasure Valley, more than 40% of all tested drinking water wells exceed the new arsenic standard. The distribution of arsenic in the groundwaters of southeast Idaho is complex and not well understood and the mechanism of release has not been identified. This project will examine existing hydrologic and geochemical datasets and sample additional groundwater wells in a strongly leveraged research effort coordinated with local state agencies. It is anticipated that this project will lead to significant future funded research opportunities at the local, state and federal level.